

Symbol Pot

Description:

Children will create a clay pot decorated with a personal symbol.

Materials:

Play-doh™, no-fire clay or homemade clay (see recipe below), craft sticks, paper clips, nails, screws

Optional: paint, paintbrushes, water and containers

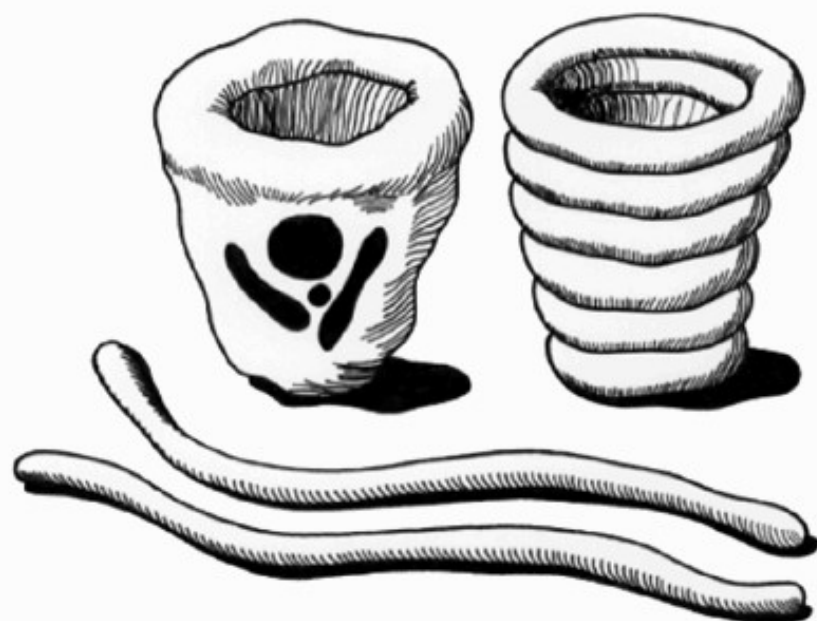
Standards: 3

Concepts: Medium, symbols, and form

Level: Pre K–3

Procedure:

Encourage your child to play with the clay for a while and get a feel for it. If you are making home-made clay, see the recipe below. Show your child how to make a pinch pot by taking a chunk of clay, about the size of the palm of the hand, and working it into a ball. Holding the clay in one hand, start pinching a hole into the top of the ball with your thumb and forefinger. As you pinch the clay, turn the ball so that an even opening starts to appear. Keep doing this until you have a small pot. Encourage your child to make a pinch pot after watching you make one. If things go wrong, just roll the clay into a ball and start over. Another way to make a pot is to roll clay into snakelike coils and stack them on top of one another. The key here is to make sure that the coils are attached so the pot doesn't fall apart when it dries. Have your child add symbols to the pot by stamping things into the moist clay, adding bits of new clay, or painting symbols on the dry pot. A symbol stands for or suggests something else. For example, a sun symbol could stand for power or happiness.



Simplify:

Let a young child play with the clay without having to make a pot. Give the child some objects to stamp into the clay to make patterns and shapes.

Extension:

Your child can make tiles by rolling the clay flat with a rolling pin and stamping objects—rocks, screws, pencils, paper clips, bottle caps—into the clay.